

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. An endoscope apparatus comprising:

a solid-state image pickup device mounted at the end of an insert section of an endoscope;

a signal processing circuit, arranged in the endoscope, for driving the solid-state image pickup device and for producing a standard video signal in response to an output signal from the solid-state image pickup device,

wherein the signal processing circuit comprises a general-purpose video signal processing circuit having a drive signal generation function for driving the solid-state image pickup device and a signal processing function for outputting the standard video signal by processing the output signal from the solid-state image pickup device; and

an endoscopic function adjusting circuit comprising a function modifying circuit, connected to the general-purpose video processing circuit, for modifying at least one of the drive signal processing function and the signal processing function executed by the general-purpose video signal processing circuit to perform signal processing compatible with the solid-state image pickup device mounted at the end of the insert section.

2. An endoscope apparatus comprising:

a general-purpose video processing circuit having a drive signal generation function for driving a solid-state image pickup device built in an endoscope and a signal processing function for outputting a standard video signal by processing an output signal from the solid-state image pickup device; and

an endoscopic function adjusting circuit comprising a function modifying circuit, connected to the general-purpose video processing circuit, for modifying at least one of the drive signal processing function and the signal processing function executed by the general-purpose video signal processing circuit in accordance with the endoscope having the solid-state image pickup device therein.

3. An endoscopic function adjusting circuit, connected to a general-purpose video processing circuit, for driving a solid-state image pickup device built in an endoscope, and for outputting a standard video signal by processing an output signal of the solid-state image pickup device, the endoscopic function adjusting circuit comprising:

a function modifying circuit for modifying at least one of the drive signal processing function and the signal processing function executed by the general-purpose video processing signal in accordance with the endoscope having the solid-state image pickup device therein.

4. An endoscope apparatus according to one of Claims 1 and 2, wherein the endoscopic function adjustment circuit comprises a delay amount adjusting circuit for cancelling the effect of a signal delay taking place in a signal cable connecting the solid-state image pickup device to the signal processing circuit.

5. An endoscope apparatus according to one of Claims 1 and 2, wherein the endoscope is detachably connected to a light source, and the endoscopic function adjusting circuit comprises at least a white balance adjusting circuit for setting a white balance state in view of the wavelength distribution of light emitted by a lamp built in the light source.

6. An endoscope apparatus according to one of Claims 1 and 2, wherein the endoscopic function adjusting circuit comprises an adjusting circuit accommodating a variation in the number of pixels, for producing the standard video signal, even when the number of the pixels in the solid-state image pickup device is changed.

7. An endoscope apparatus according to one of Claims 1 and 2, wherein the endoscopic function adjusting circuit has the function of outputting a video signal of a still image.

8. An endoscope apparatus according to one of Claims 1 and 2, wherein the endoscopic function adjusting circuit has the motorized function of flexing a bending portion of the insert section.

9. An endoscope apparatus according to one of Claims 1 and 2, wherein the general-purpose video signal processing circuit and the endoscopic function adjusting circuit remain unchanged from the respective circuit arrangements thereof when the length of the insert section becomes different.

10. An endoscope apparatus according to one of Claims 1 and 2, wherein the general-purpose video signal processing circuit and the endoscopic function adjusting circuit remain unchanged from the respective circuit arrangements thereof when the number of pixels in the solid-state image pickup device becomes different.

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107